

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13433 061536Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05
PM-04 PA-01 PRS-01 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NRC-05 DODE-00 /098 W
-----061543Z 049775 /53

O R 061543Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2545
INFO ERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
ERDA GERMANTOWN MD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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ERDA WASHDC FOR A. GIAMBUSO AND S. CIANELLA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: NEW FRENCH LOW ENRICHMENT PROCESS

REF: PARIS 13320
1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF COGEMA'S
ENRICHMENT DIVISION, THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED FRENCH
ENRICHMENT PROCESS IS A PHYSICO-CHEMICAL EXCHANGE
PROCESS DEMONSTRATED IN THE LABORATORY AND INHERENTLY
UNSUITABLE FOR HIGH URANIUM ENRICHMENT. IT WILL
REQUIRE FURTHER OPTIMIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION
EFFORTS BEFORE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS IS DEMONSTRATED
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AND IT DOES NOT IMPACT PLANS FOR THE EURODIF AND CORODIF
ENRICHMENT PLANTS. FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN TODAY'S
FRENCH PRESS EMPHASIZE THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS
ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH CAN BE USED AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE
TO UNDERLINE FRENCH DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN ENERGY AND
NONPROLIFERATION AREAS, AND UNDERSCORES FRENCH SCIENTIF-
IC CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTACT WITH COGNIZANT OFFICIAL OF COGEMA'S ENRICHMENT DIVISION INDICATES THAT: THE SUBJECT PROCESS IS A PHYSICO-CHEMICAL LIQUID EXCHANGE PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN THE LABORATORY; CONDITIONS REQUIRED ARE THUS KNOWN, AND THE EQUILIBRIUM TIMES ARE SUCH THAT IT INHERENTLY CANNOT BE USED FOR HIGH ENRICHMENT PURPOSES. FURTHER OPTIMIZATION WORK AND LARGER INSTALLATIONS ARE NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT COMMERCIALIZATION AND DEMONSTRATE THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PROCESS. IT WOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE BEFORE 1984-85 AND IT DOES NOT IMPACT PLANS FOR EURODIF AND CORODIF DIFFUSION ENRICHMENT PLANTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW PRACTICAL THIS PROCESS IS FOR VERY LARGE-SCALE APPLICATIONS, AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO HAVE EXPORT POTENTIAL FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES DESIRING SOME FUEL ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY.

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN TODAY'S MORNING PRESS MAKE THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:

FIGARO: A) IT NOTES THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONSIDERS THAT IT OFFERS POLITICAL MILEAGE TO THE PRESIDENT; IT POINTS OUT THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT UNDERSCORES FRENCH SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY AND WORLD LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE OFFER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION; B) IT STATES THAT UNDOUBTEDLY COMMERCIALIZATION WILL REQUIRE SEVERAL YEARS, BUT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO EXPORT ENRICHMENT FACILITIES; AND C) IT CONSIDERS THAT NOW THE OSIRAK (THE IRAQUIAN

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RESEARCH REACTOR) PROJECT WILL NOT BE CONSUMMATED.

LES ECHOS: IT NOTES THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT PRESENTS A NEW INITIATIVE 24 HOURS BEFORE THE LONDON MEETING AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN LONDON BY PROPOSING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THIS PROJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, URANIUM, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS13433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770159-1195
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770585/aaaacvhg.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ab48a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 13320
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2615642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW FRENCH LOW ENRICHMENT PROCESS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ab48a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009